IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Original) A computerized method for managing router metadata, the method comprising:

>   creating a metadata file, said metadata file defining objects in a router;

>   reading the metadata file;

>   converting the metadata file into an object model having at least one object; and

>   loading the objects onto the router.

2.   (Original) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein loading the objects onto the router loads the objects into an SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) MIB (Management Information Base).

3.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the metadata file comprises an ASCII formatted file.

4.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein converting the metadata file includes creating a hash table of attributes names and attribute values from the metadata file.

5.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein converting the metadata file comprises converting a required subset of the metadata into an object model.

6.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising:

>   comparing by the router the objects of the object model to a runtime object model; and

>   updating the runtime object model with differences identified by the comparison.

7.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising:

    reading a runtime object model from the router;

    comparing the runtime object model to metadata in the metadata file; and

    updating the metadata file with differences identified by the comparison.